



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

June 7, 2004

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

WASHINGTON D.C. UPDATE

With the death of former President Ronald Reagan, scheduled House and Senate floor action has been postponed until next week. Many committee hearings and mark ups also have been postponed. Members in both houses will spend most of the week participating in activities mourning his death.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2005 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

Last week, the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee marked up its FFY 2005 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including for state and local homeland security activities. According to the limited information released by the Subcommittee, the bill would increase overall funding for state and local homeland security activities from approximately \$3.27 billion in FFY 2004 to \$3.42 billion in FFY 2005. This includes an increase in funding for the Urban Area Security Grant Initiative (UASI) for high-threat urban areas from \$721 million to \$1 billion in FFY 2005 and a reduction in State Homeland Security Grant (SHSG) funding from \$1.69 billion to \$1.25 billion in FFY 2005. The Subcommittee did not provide individual program funding levels for other state and local homeland security programs, such as State and Local Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention grants.

During the mark-up, Subcommittee Chairman Rogers (R-KY) expressed concern that previously appropriated funds were not being spent quickly enough by state and local

governments. The full Appropriations Committee will mark up the homeland security appropriations bill on June 9, 2004. The Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet scheduled action on any of its FFY 2005 appropriations bills.

Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Bill (H.R. 3266)

Last week, the House Energy and Commerce Committee and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved their respective versions of the Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2004, H.R. 3266 (Cox, R-CA). Similar to the version reported by the House Select Committee on Homeland Security on March 18, 2004, the House Energy and Commerce Committee version includes County-supported language that allocates first responder grant funds to states or directly to regions based on factors, such as terrorist threat levels and critical infrastructure, without any small state minimum requirement. The current funding formula for the SHSG program results in California receiving the least amount of funds per capita because each state receives a minimum floor of 0.75 percent of total funding.

The House Transportation Committee's version of H.R. 3266 differs significantly in so far as it includes a 0.55 percent small state minimum floor which would apply not only to SHSG funding, but also to UASI funding even though nearly half of all states did not have any high-threat urban areas that qualified for UASI grants in FFY 2004. The House Transportation Committee version also differs as its allocation formula would include factors taking into account the threat of natural disasters as well as terrorist threats. This reflects the fact that this Committee's version reflects an "all-hazards" approach to first responder grants unlike the other two versions where the grants are focused on the first response to terrorist attacks.

The House Judiciary Committee had been scheduled to mark up its version of the bill on June 9, 2004, but its mark-up has been postponed. Judiciary Committee Chairman Sensenbrenner (R-WI) has stated that he will include a small state minimum floor in his Committee's bill. Once the Judiciary Committee completes action, it will be left to the House Rules Committee, chaired by Representative Dreier (R-CA), to decide the rule for considering the differing versions of H.R. 4266 on the House floor.

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) Reauthorization

Last week, the House appointed 54 conferees to work with the Senate to resolve differences between their respective versions of TEA-21 reauthorization legislation (H.R. 3550/S.1072). The House conferees will include Representative Gary Miller from the County's delegation. The Senate appointed 21 conferees, including Senator Boxer (D-CA).

Each Supervisor
June 7, 2004
Page 3

With conferees appointed, work can begin to craft a compromise bill. Agreeing on an overall funding level for the six-year reauthorization bill is one of the most contentious issues. The House bill is funded at \$284 billion, compared to the Senate's \$318 billion. The Administration has threatened to veto any measure exceeding \$256 billion. A final bill is not expected before the current short-term extension of TEA-21 programs expires on June 30, 2004. Another extension through July is expected in order to give the conferees time to resolve their differences.

We will continue to keep you advised of any new developments.

DEJ:GK
MAL:MT:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist